

In the Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for selectively downloading a multi-part e-mail message to an e-mail client operated by a user from an e-mail server, the multi-part e-mail message including at least one attachment, the attachment being encoded the method comprising:

retrieving said at least one attachment information for the multi-part e-mail message from the e-mail server;

downloading said at least one attachment of the multi-part email message from said email server;

preparing a formatted message for sending to the e-mail client, said formatted message containing a link to the at least one downloaded attachment, such that the attachment is not sent to the e-mail client;

sending said formatted message to the e-mail client;

displaying said formatted message to the user by the e-mail client;

decoding said at least one attachment;

requesting said at least one attachment by said e-mail client; and

sending said requested attachment to said e-mail client.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said attachment information includes the entirety of the multi-part e-mail message, such that said preparing a formatted message further comprises the separating the multi-part e-mail message into a plurality of portions, including at least a first portion containing the attachment.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the multi-part e-mail message includes a text part, such that said preparing a formatted message further comprises the separating the multi-part e-mail message into a second portion containing said text-part, and wherein said preparing a formatted message includes adding said second portion to said formatted message.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said requesting said at least one attachment by said e-mail client further comprises selecting said link by the user from said formatted message.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said downloading at least one attachment from said email server for viewing by the user is performed in a streamed manner.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising:  
providing a Web browser for interacting with the user; and  
displaying said attachment by said Web browser, such that said downloading said attachment is performed according to HTTP.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said attachment information is a header for the attachment.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said downloading said attachment from said email server is performed in parallel to said preparing a formatted message.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein said downloading said attachment from said email server includes decoding said attachment.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said attachment information is a header for the attachment, such that the method further comprises downloading said attachment from proxy to client in a streamed manner for viewing by the user.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said retrieving at least one attachment information from said multi-part email message includes providing an e-mail proxy for communicating with the e-mail server and with the e-mail client, such that said retrieving said attachment, said downloading said attachment, said preparing said formatted message and said sending said formatted message are performed by said e-mail proxy.

14. (Currently Amended) A system for selectively downloading a multi-part e-mail message for a user, the multi-part e-mail message including at least one attachment, the attachment being encoded, the system comprising:

- (a) an e-mail server for receiving the multi-part e-mail message;
- (b) an e-mail proxy in communication with said e-mail server for receiving at least attachment information about the multi-part e-mail message and the attachment, and for preparing a formatted message containing a link to the attachment; and
- (c) an e-mail client in communication with said e-mail proxy for receiving said formatted message and for displaying said formatted message to the user, such that the attachment is displayed to the user after the user selects said link.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein said e-mail proxy downloads the attachment with said attachment information.

16. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein said e-mail proxy downloads the attachment separately from said attachment information.

17. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the multi-part e-mail message contains a text part, and said formatted message includes said text-part.

18. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein said e-mail proxy downloads and decodes the attachment before the attachment is sent to said e-mail client.

19. (Previously Presented) A method for selectively downloading a plurality of portions but not an entirety of a multi-part e-mail message to an e-mail client operated by a user from an e-mail proxy, the method comprising the steps of:  
retrieving the multi-part e-mail message from an e-mail server;  
separating said multi-part e-mail message into a plurality of portions;

parsing at least one header from said plurality of portions according to at least one user preference;

preparing a formatted message by the e-mail proxy for sending to the e-mail client, said formatted message containing said plurality of portions but not the entirety of said multi-part e-mail message; and

sending said formatted message to said e-mail client.